

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in an optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect, and

wherein the method is used to read the rewritable storage medium in a read-only optical disk drive which cannot acquire the specific information from the medium, such that acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, such that a request to acquire the specific information from the medium during the acquiring step causes the read-only optical disk drive to generate error information, and wherein the medium is determined to be authorized based on the error information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a first specific information of the medium from a wobbling groove of the medium;

acquiring a second specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area when the first specific information is copied;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible, such that a request for acquisition of the first specific information causes error information to be generated, and when the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is possible, the medium is determined to be authorized based on both the error information and the acquired second specific information.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The medium judgment method of claim 3 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both error information obtained in the first acquiring step and error information obtained in the second acquiring step.

6. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in an optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein the rewritable storage medium is used in a read-only optical disk drive which cannot acquire the specific information from the medium, such that acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, such that a request to acquire the specific information from the medium during the acquiring step causes the read-only optical disk drive to generate error information, and wherein the medium is determined to be authorized based on the error information.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a first specific information of the medium from a wobbling groove of the medium;

acquiring a second specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area-when the first specific information is copied;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible, such that a request for acquisition of the first specific information causes error information to be generated, and when the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is possible, the medium is determined to be authorized based on both the error information and the acquired second specific information.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is impossible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both error information obtained in the first acquiring step and error information obtained in the second acquiring step.

11. (Previously presented) A medium judgment computer program stored on a computer-readable storage medium for causing a computer to execute a medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, such that a request to acquire the specific information from the medium during the acquiring step

causes the drive to generate error information, the medium is determined to be authorized based on the error information.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) An optical disk drive which determines authorization of a rewritable optical disk having a read-only area and a rewritable area, comprising:

- a system control unit controlling the entire optical disk drive;

- an optical head irradiating a light beam to the disk and performing reading/writing of information with the disk by the control of the system control unit;

- a motor rotating the disk;

- a position control unit performing a position control of the optical head and a rotation control of the motor by the control of the system control unit; and

- a signal processing unit performing signal processing of data read from the disk by the control of the system control unit,

- the system control unit comprising:

- an acquiring unit acquiring a specific information of the disk from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the disk;

- a determining unit determining whether contents of the disk are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

- a permitting unit permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being correct; and

- an inhibiting unit inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being incorrect,

wherein said optical disk drive is a read-only optical disk drive, such that the acquisition of the specific information from the disk is impossible, such that error information is generated, and wherein the medium is determined to be authorized based on the error information.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A read-only optical disk drive which determines authorization of a rewritable optical disk having a read-only area and a rewritable area, comprising:

- a system control unit controlling the entire optical disk drive;
- an optical head irradiating a light beam to the disk and performing reading/writing of information with the disk by the control of the system control unit;
- a motor rotating the disk;
- a position control unit performing a position control of the optical head and a rotation control of the motor by the control of the system control unit; and
- a signal processing unit performing signal processing of data read from the disk by the control of the system control unit,

the system control unit comprising:

- a first acquiring unit acquiring a first specific information of the disk from a wobbling groove of the disk;
- a second acquiring unit acquiring a second specific information of the disk from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the disk, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area when the first specific information is copied;
- a determining unit determining whether contents of the disk are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;
- a permitting unit permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being correct; and
- an inhibiting unit inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the disk when the authorization of the disk is determined as being incorrect,

wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the disk is impossible, such that a request for acquisition of the first specific information causes error information to be generated, and when the acquisition of the second specific information from the disk is possible, the disk is determined to be authorized based on both the error information and the acquired second specific information.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 18 wherein, when the acquisition of the first specific information from the disk is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the disk is impossible, the authorization of the disk is determined based on both error information obtained by the first acquiring unit and error information obtained by the second acquiring unit.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the acquiring step includes issuing a READ TOC command.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the acquired specific information includes a value of Last Possible Start Time of Lead-out.

23. (Previously presented) A medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in an optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

acquiring a specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium;

determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on the acquired specific information;

permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

wherein the method is used to read the rewritable storage medium in a read-only optical disk drive, and when the acquisition of the specific information from the medium is impossible, the

medium is determined to be authorized based on an error code indicating that a READ TOC command is an illegal request.

24. (Previously presented) A medium judgment method which determines authorization of a rewritable storage medium having a read-only area and a rewritable area for use in a read-only optical disk drive, the method comprising steps of:

- acquiring a first specific information of the medium from a wobbling groove of the medium;

- acquiring a second specific information of the medium from an information reproduction area of the read-only area of the medium, the second specific information being pre-recorded in the information reproduction area when the first specific information is copied;

- determining whether contents of the medium are authorized based on both the acquired first specific information and the acquired second specific information;

- permitting running of a starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being correct; and

- inhibiting running of the starting process of the optical disk drive with the medium when the authorization of the medium is determined as being incorrect,

- wherein when the acquisition of the first specific information from the medium is impossible and the acquisition of the second specific information from the medium is possible, the authorization of the medium is determined based on both a kind of error information obtained in the first acquiring step and the acquired second specific information; and

- wherein the step of acquiring the first specific information includes issuing a READ ATIP command.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the first specific information includes a value of Last Possible Start Time of Lead-out.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the error information includes an error code indicating that the READ ATIP command is an illegal request.